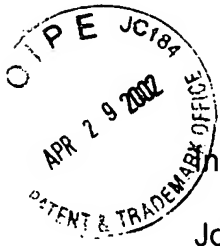


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3736  
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Customer No. 22882



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

John I. Shipp et al.

Serial No.: 10/047,122

Filed: January 15, 2002

For: INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS  
FOR USE IN LAPAROSCOPIC  
SURGERY

Group Art Unit: 3736

Examiner: N/A

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I hereby certify that:

1. Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)
2. Form PTO-1449
3. 1 cited document
4. Self-addressed return postcard receipt

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service to Addressee with sufficient postage as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated above and are addressed to:

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In re Application of:	)	
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art

against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

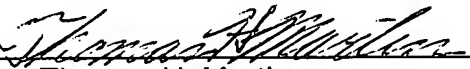
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1068.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: April 19, 2002

By:   
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